GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2624
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2015
Procurement of Agricultural Produce
Azad Shri Kirti (JHA)

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that as per the NASSO only 6% of the total number of farmers producing wheat and paddy sold their produces to any procurement agency; and

(b) if so, the corrective steps being taken by the Government to address the issue?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a) & (b): No, Madam. Keeping in view the procurement potential areas, procurement centres for MSP operations are opened by Government agencies, both Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Government, after mutual consultations. Procurement centres are opened by respective State Government agencies/ FCI taking into account the production, marketable surplus, convenience of farmers and availability of other logistics/infrastructure such as storage and transportation etc. Large number of temporary purchase centres in addition to the existing Mandis and depots/godowns are also established at key points for the convenience of the farmers.

The Government agencies also engage Co-operative Societies and Self Help Group which work as aggregators of produce from farmers and bring the produce to purchase centres being operated in particular locations / areas and increase outreach of Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations to small and marginal farmers. These Co-operative societies are in addition to the direct purchases from farmers.

Co-operative societies/Self Help Groups are engaged in many states like Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Jharkhand and Rajasthan. Whereas, in some states like Punjab and Haryana, the Government of India has permitted the state Governments to engage Arhatiyas for procurement of wheat and paddy from the farmers on payment of commission. These steps have been taken by Government of India so that Government agencies can procure maximum wheat and paddy directly from farmers by expanding out-reach of MSP benefit to farmers.

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